5. The system of claim 1, wherein the lockable access hatch comprises a solid lid formed of a strong composite material that minimally attenuates radio wave transmissions passing therethrough.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the housing is formed at least predominantly of a substantially rigid plastic material.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the access hatch bars access to the internal volume when closed and locked.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the telemetry unit has an antenna and the telemetry unit is mounted to the housing so that the antenna is positioned below the access hatch and does not extend through the access hatch.

9. The system of claim 1, further comprising a lid position sensor disposed in the housing and communicatively coupled to the telemetry unit to provide a signal thereto to indicate a sensed position of a lid of the housing.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one sensor is arranged to sense at least one of fluid flow, fluid pressure, noise and water quality.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one sensor is arranged to sense fluid flow, fluid pressure and noise.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one sensor is arranged to sense fluid flow, fluid pressure and water quality.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the telemetry unit comprises a controller to control operation of the at least one sensor.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the telemetry unit is configured to periodically cause the at least one sensor to turn on, generate an output signal corresponding to each sensed at least one condition and then turn off.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the telemetry unit comprises a power source to power the controller and to power the at least one sensor.

16. The system of claim 13, wherein the controller is configured to compare sensor values corresponding to the received output signals to an expected range of values for each sensor and to send an alarm message to a remote network node if the sensor values for at least one sensor fall outside the expected range for that sensor.

17. The system of claim 1, wherein the telemetry unit comprises a long-life battery.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the long-life battery has sufficient stored energy to support normal operation of the telemetry unit for several years.

19. The system of claim 1, wherein the telemetry unit and the at least one sensor are configured for low power consumption.

20. A fluid monitoring system, comprising:

a plurality of in-ground installations, each installation comprising a fluid monitoring system according to claim 1; and

a server to receive data representative of sensed fluid conditions from the wireless telemetry units of respective installations via a wireless network.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the installations are positioned within a water supply and drainage zone so that monitoring by the server of sensed fluid conditions at each installation allows identification of one or more conditions of interest within the water supply and drainage zone.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one sensor of at least one of the installations is arranged to sense at least one condition of fluid that is different from the at least one condition of fluid arranged to be sensed by the at least one sensor of another of the installations.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein one of the installations is positioned at each main inlet conduit of the supply and drainage zone.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein some of the installations are positioned around an outside of the supply and drainage zone and fewer of the installations are positioned in inner areas of the supply and drainage zone.

25. A fluid monitoring system, comprising:

a plurality of sensors positioned to sense conditions of at least one buried fluid conduit;

a plurality of wireless telemetry units, each telemetry unit positioned within an in-ground housing proximate at least one of the plurality of sensors and coupled thereto to receive output signals corresponding to sensed conditions; and

a server to communicate with the wireless telemetry units via a wireless network, to receive data representative of the sensed conditions.

26. The system of claim 20, wherein each wireless telemetry unit is free of reliance on an external power source.

27. The system of claim 20, wherein the server comprises program code to process the received data representative of the sensed conditions according to a set of stored rules accessible to the server.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein processing of the received data includes accessing stored historical data received from the wireless telemetry units and determining whether an event of interest appears to be occurring or is likely to occur in relation to the at least one conduit.

29. The system of claim 20, wherein the server comprises an interface component to communicate with a client device in relation to the received data representative of the sensed conditions.

30. A fluid monitoring method, comprising:

providing a wireless telemetry unit in-ground above a buried fluid conduit, the wireless telemetry unit coupled to receive output signals from at least one sensor arranged to sense at least one condition of fluid in the fluid conduit, the at least one sensor relying on power from the wireless telemetry unit;

selectively providing power from the wireless telemetry unit to the at least one sensor;

receiving at the wireless telemetry unit output signals from the at least one sensor indicative of at least one fluid condition in the fluid conduit; and

discontinuing power from the wireless telemetry unit to the at least one sensor after the receiving.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the providing power is selected to occur at predetermined intervals.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the wireless telemetry unit is free of reliance on an external power source.

33. The method of claim 30, further comprising transmitting a message from the wireless telemetry unit to a remote server, the message containing data based on the output signals from the at least one sensor.

34. The method of claim 30, further comprising waiting a predetermined time between the providing power and the receiving output signals to allow the at least one sensor to become ready to provide the output signals.

35. The method of claim 30, wherein the wireless telemetry unit is positioned in an in-ground lockable housing accessible from surface level.